

# ENGINEER FAVORS CITY ENTERING DISTRICT

**TO ATTEND MEETING**  
Mayor Dennis and as many of the councilmen as can go will attend an organization meeting of mayors and councilmen at Huntington Park Friday evening. The officials will try to band together in a group similar to that of the city clerks, treasurers and city attorneys' organizations.

**TIME TURNS BACKWARD**  
*By the United Press*  
**REDDING.**—Wearing the same dress she wore 50 years ago when she was Esther at the grand chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Mrs. Nellie Dobrowsky was guest of honor at a recent meeting of the local chapter.

**PORT EXTENSION**  
A resolution presented by Councilman A. E. Henning in regard to the possibility of extending Los Angeles Harbor northwest from the present limits in West Basin to the area known as Bixby Slough, was adopted by the Los Angeles Council this week.

## LEONARD SAYS TORRANCE SHOULD JOIN DISTRICT TO PROTECT OWN INDUSTRIES

**Presents Four Reasons Why Colorado River Water Project Is of Vital Importance to City**

I am asked to state whether or not in my opinion it is wise for Torrance to join the Metropolitan Water District in bringing water from the Colorado River. The election which will be held next Saturday, February 21, to decide this matter, is to my mind extremely important as viewed from several angles.

I believe the decision will reflect very definitely upon the future of this city, and that at least the following four important questions should be carefully studied at this time:

1. Will we be able to supply our future water requirements from our present and future local developments?
2. If we must look to other sources, where and when shall we look?
3. How important to Torrance is an ample, definite and perpetual supply of water?
4. Is it wise at this time of depression to assume added obligations?

Concerning Local Water Supply

In my opinion we need have no serious concern about shortage of water.

Where Shall We Look in the Future?

This question answers itself. There is no economical source of water supply for this section except the Colorado River. No part of the 400 second feet or 260 million gallons of water being delivered from Owens Valley to Los Angeles is available. Los Angeles now realizes they must go to the Colorado River and it is proposed to bring into this section 1500 second feet from that source or about 970 million gallons every 24 hours.

Eleven other neighboring cities were extended an invitation to participate in the benefits from this new water supply and the Metropolitan Water District was formed. All of these 15 cities, realizing they have the same problem Torrance has today, took steps to find the answer once and for all water supply for the next 10 or 15 years, unless we secure some large industries. That ultimately all time.

In my opinion, Torrance should not delay action in the matter of joining the Metropolitan Water District if it is the consensus of opinion that the city must get water from outside source and if such is the decision, I believe Torrance should join the District now when it is possible to become a member.

It is possible to conceive that later this city and other communities may not be able to join the District upon the same terms we may secure at this time; if for no other reason we must remember that these other cities have paid the expense of the preliminary work during the last several years until now bonds are about to be

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sold after which sale the construction work will be paid, of course, from the money derived from the sale of these bonds.

These cities may decide that water furnished through this Colorado River Aqueduct is a valuable asset, and one to cash in on.

**Cities Won't Give Up Own Share of Water**

The entire 1500 second feet of water possible to be delivered by the aqueduct will be awarded by March this year to the cities then members of the District in proportion to their assessed valuations. These cities may hesitate to diminish their shares in order to favor other communities desiring later to join the District. Further, undoubtedly those cities coming in after the water is brought to the member cities will be required to bear the expense of the transmission to reach their own individual community. By coming in now this expense is part of the entire project and is included in the bonds to be sold.

As I see it there are only two ways Torrance can have an ample water supply. First, to secure it from the Colorado River by joining the Metropolitan Water District and helping to bring it here. Second, by annexing to one of the other member cities and paying the price. Undoubtedly, this price would include Torrance's share of all expense incurred to date plus a higher tax rate.

I realize that it is not encouraging to increase our obligation at this time when conditions are so acute, but to me it seems that the vital interest Torrance is at stake should we miss the opportunity to participate in water from the Colorado River, and if we have in mind that it is necessary to join sometime, I believe there is no advantage for Torrance to defer favorable action at this time.

**Does Southern Calif. Need More Water?**

Less than 1% of the water supply of the state is south of Tehachap, Paas yet 60% of the wealth and population is in the area.

The fastest growing portion of the United States in population is Southern California. Consequently the greatest growing demand for water is in this section.

Industries realizing the advantages of Southern California as a manufacturing and distribution point are seeking locations in this area. Torrance must depend for its future growth almost entirely on industrial development.

Industries seeking locations are vitally interested in three things: transportation, water and power.

This city is not suffering by comparison with other communities in the matter of power or transportation.

How about the water question and the future when our demands are increased and our supply is depleted?

**Insurance Is Necessary Here**

Industries requiring large amounts of water must have positive assurance of an adequate delivery and are not interested in a location where there is any question as to available supply. Under present conditions, Torrance cannot measure up to this standard.

The Santa Fe Railway Company owns nearly a thousand acres of industrial land in Torrance. We are to a large extent dependent on their ability to locate industries here. Will the question of water be a deciding factor that will locate in Long Beach, east Los Angeles or some other place the industries they solicit?

Do we not owe it to the owners of industrial land to settle this water question now?

No handicap should be placed on future development if we are to compete with other communities in securing industries. Our business and land values cannot increase without industrial development.

**How May Torrance Be Part of District?**

By voting to become a member. By paying its proportional part of the expenses incurred by the District up to the time bonds are sold, this proportion being based on the ratio which our assessed valuation bears to the assessed valuation of the entire District.

The total assessed valuation of the entire District is \$2,202,000,000. Torrance assessed valuation about \$26,000,000. On this basis Torrance is entitled to 1.1% of the water and to pay this proportion of the expense, and Torrance will be entitled to 15 second feet of water which is about seven times our present requirement, and would be required to pay up to March 1, 1931, about \$19,000.00, approximately 8c on \$100.00 assessed valuation. Estimated cost of the project is \$225,000,000.00. Torrance's part would be about \$2,500,000.00 (which cost will be spread over a 40 or 50-year period).

The city does not become individually bonded for any amount. Bonds are over the entire District. It is estimated that eight or 10 years will be required to construct the aqueduct. During the construction period Torrance will pay its share of the interest on the bonds as sold. This rate would amount to 4c on \$100.00 assessed valuation the first year, increasing 4c each year, or an average of 20c per \$100.00 valuation in the 10-year period. This is 8c less per \$100.00 assessed valuation than is being paid the Sewer District. We do not think the charge for sewer maintenance is excessive.

A lot valued at \$2500.00 and assessed at \$1000.00 would require a payment of \$2.00 a year to meet this interest of \$20.00 for the 10-year construction period, after which time the water rate of approximately \$1.50 for 100 cubic

feet will cover, bond payment, interest and delivery expense to the consumer.

**Property Insurance Policy Delivered**

The Pittsburgh Glass Company sought location in the Southern California area. This company employs several hundred men, and they require several million gallons of water a day. Torrance made a well directed effort to secure this industry, but the Pittsburgh Glass Company located at Santa Ana. Santa Ana was a member of the Metropolitan Water District and could deliver the goods.

Proctor and Gamble are investing several million dollars in Long Beach. Employment will be furnished for several hundred people. The city of Long Beach agreed to serve all water needed, several million gallons a day, and has applied for membership in the Metropolitan Water District to be certain of carrying out its contract.

**Values Depand Upon Industrial Expansion**

Can anyone say that real estate values in Torrance are not dependent on industrial expansion? The lot at the southwest corner of Sartori Avenue and El Prado sold recently for sixty thousand dollars. This was a much higher valuation than was placed on this property a few months before the sale.

The reason—nothing else but the assurance of industrial expansion. The United States Steel had located here. There is a new building and business on this property today. Added value was reflected immediately to adjoining property. Fullerton has written his own insurance policy by becoming a member of the District by a vote of 5 to 1.

Does it seem likely that all of these cities are unwise?

## VOTE "YES" SATURDAY

An Editorial  
By GROVER C. WHYTE

What answer will the voters of Torrance give to directors of the Metropolitan Water District in response to the invitation that has been extended this city to join with 13 other progressive municipalities of the Southland in bringing the waters of the Colorado River to Southern California?

After months of careful study of the water problems of this community, the Herald feels that it would be lacking in its responsibility as this city's newspaper if it did not urge its readers to vote "Yes" at the election to be held Saturday of this week.

Regardless of the many side issues and alleged objectionable features of entering the Metropolitan Water District at this time, the one all-important fact stands out conspicuously,—we must have water in increasing quantities if Torrance is to grow and prosper. Being an industrial community, the necessity of large quantities of water is all the more important. Long Beach, which just this week decided to enter the District, was obliged to guarantee Proctor & Gamble as much water as the present total consumption in Torrance before the executives of that great soap factory would consent to erect their plant in that city. Long Beach HAD to join!

How can Torrance expect to secure similar large industries unless she can guarantee them all the water they need? It is true, we probably have sufficient water lying underground to meet the present demands for 10 to 15 years, but what would we do if some large industry wanted as much additional water as the entire city is now using? Where would we get it? The water level in local wells is lowering constantly and the entire Southland is overdrawing its underground water supply year after year. There is no answer, except to bring in the waters of the Colorado.

The cost of constructing the Colorado Aqueduct to the average workman who owns his own home in Torrance will be about one cent a day during the next ten years, and thereafter considerably less, possibly nothing at all. Surely this is a cheap premium to pay for the assurance of an unlimited water supply.

Torrance may never get another opportunity to share in the waters from the Colorado, and it is certain that even if the invitation is extended again that the cost to this city will be materially greater and the benefits less. If we decide to join now, the District as a whole will pay for the trunk line from the reservoir in Santa Ana canyon to the city limits of Torrance, and we will secure our full share of water from the aqueduct, which is approximately seven times as much as the present consumption. However, we will not be required to buy any more water than we need at any time.

If we delay joining now, we may never have the opportunity to join again; and if we do, we will have to pay the cost of bringing the water from the reservoir in Santa Ana canyon to our city limits, as well as be content to accept only that amount of water which the other cities in the District decide to allot us.

March 1 is the "dead line" for membership with full participating privileges. Let us look to the future with open eyes and keen minds. Play safe and vote "Yes" Saturday,—and don't forget to vote.

capacity of the aqueduct is about reached as far as proportioning the water to the cities is concerned. Permission to use aqueduct water is only to be gained by invitation from the cities now in the District, whose directors are known to be in favor of limiting such invitations materially after March 1.

**Has Contracted for 38% of Power at Dam**

No water will be delivered to the consumer-cities in the District for about 10 years—the time it takes to construct the aqueduct, Parker diversion dam, pumping and power plants. The importance of the project can be seen by the fact that the District has already contracted for 38 percent of the total electric power to be generated at the Hoover Dam by the government.

**DEAF TO HOLD CONVENTION**  
*By the United Press*  
**MEMPHIS.**—More than 500 deaf Tennessee persons are expected to attend the convention for deaf to be held here in August. The gathering is sponsored by the Tennessee Association of the Deaf, organized in 1897.

**PIGEONS MARKSMEN'S TARGETS**  
*By the United Press*  
**COLUMBUS, Miss.**—Picked marksmen here took the day off from their business recently and held target practice at the expense of more than 100 pigeons that infested the Masonic building.

**THE MAIL MUST GO**  
*By the United Press*  
**CONNELLSVILLE, Pa.**—The mail must go through, even though it is not the air mail. When Carter Norman A. Harshman serving Connelville R. D. 3 in his automobile was stopped by a snow drift, John Blier, a resident, arrived with a team of horses and pulled Harshman and his car over the entire route.

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